

## REPORT

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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- c. Fifth Section. The former chief, Dr. Souckova, who is now a member of Deputy Minister Lobl's Cabinet, has been replaced by his former deputy, Dr. Wulkan. The latter, [ ] is [ ] extremely influential, and he has succeeded in preventing the appointment of a new chief, so that he has a free hand. This Section organizes the activities of the Monopoly Trading Companies, as well as representations abroad and the representations of foreign firms in Czechoslovakia. 50X1-HUM
- d. Six Section. The chief is Bittermann, formerly right hand man of Minister Dr. Hubert Ripka. This Section is known in the Ministry as the Section for "all other matters". It includes departments for customs, statistics, communications, and the press. The head of the Press Department is Dr. Drbohlav, who is also responsible for the journal Zahranicni Obchod and the Bulletin of the Ministry for Foreign Trade. The offices are at Washingtonova ulice 7.
3. On 1 January 1949, twenty-eight of the Monopoly Trading Companies took over the entire direction of foreign trade. They are directly subordinate to the Ministry, which nominates their directors-general and their deputies, and fixes the organization of the companies. The directors-general are directly responsible to the Minister (actually to Lobl). These companies have planning departments which are also directly responsible to the Ministry.
4. An important organ of the Ministry is the so-called Presidency, which decides on all political and personnel questions. The Presidency checks on all important economic problems from the political standpoint, and also decides on appointments to positions in the Ministry and in the Monopoly Companies and on representation abroad. The pro-forma head of the Presidency is Dr. Janda [ ]
- Actually the most important person is Josef Pommer [ ] who is head of the Personnel Department. 50X1-HUM
5. The Presidency also makes decisions on all financial and legal questions, as well as the internal organization of the Ministry. The most important factor in the Presidency is the "Political Cadre", a small circle of reliable Communists who decide on purely political questions in conjunction with Party. Members of the "Cadre" are Pommer, from the Cabinet of Dr. Markus (an important political personality); Dr. Margulius, Chairman of the Minister's Cabinet; and Dr. Souckova. The "Cadre" also decides whether a passport for a trip abroad is to be granted or not.
6. The Ministry of Industry, rather than the Ministry of Foreign Trade, is responsible for economic espionage. Nevertheless, all trade delegations travelling abroad must report in detail on the activities of Czech emigrants. 50X1-HUM
- [ ]
7. Arms exports from Czechoslovakia are directly settled by the Ministry of Defense. Requests and reports do not come to the Ministry of Foreign Trade through the ordinary channels, but as secret files. [ ]

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